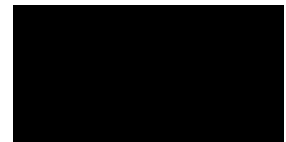


Source: Utility Week {Main}
Edition:
Country: UK
Date: Friday 6, February 2015
Page: 31
Area: 110 sq. cm
Circulation: ABC 3580 Weekly
Ad data: page rate £2,622.00, scc rate £0.00
Phone: 020 8651 7100 / 7060
Keyword: The Montcalm



The lay of the land

It's been a bad few weeks for the fracking industry. First the global oil price dived, dragging down gas prices and throwing into doubt the profitability of previously viable shale extraction. And now Bez, the wobbly-headed dancer with 1990s Manchester dance band The Happy Mondays, has announced he's going to have a "bed-in" with his girlfriend, Firouzeh Razavi, at [The Montcalm](#) At The Brewery hotel in London to protest against fracking.

A bed-in, for our younger readers, is where you lie in bed naked with your girlfriend surrounded by the world's media, usually as a means of effecting political change. It was successfully pioneered by John Lennon and Yoko Ono in 1969 with their Bed-in for Peace at the Presidential Suite at the Hilton Hotel in Amsterdam. For our even younger readers, Lennon was one of

the leading songwriters and singers in prototype boy band The Beatles.

The Brewery is no Amsterdam Hilton, of course. And Bez is no John Lennon. But the famously drug-addled Mancunian does have some public pulling power (he won *Celebrity Big Brother* in 2005, after all), so perhaps the UK fracking industry should sit up and take note.

Bez lying in bed has got to be more effective than Bez at the hustings, anyway. The ardent anti-fracking campaigner announced last year that he would run as MP of Salford at the next general election under the banner of the Reality Party. Unfortunately the electoral commission ruled that the name was too close to the Realists' Party, which is already on the register, so it was barred. Bez missed the January deadline for resubmitting a new name, so he'll have to run as an independent.

Or he could just take it easy for a few days and have a lie-in.

